REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1944 No. 50

Complete Victory Lies Ahead

GENERAL MONTGOMERY

We are a great team—Americans, British, Canadians and also soldiers of Fighting France and Poland—all knit together into one fighting machine and all working for one plan

To-day all is well. Our armies are moving relentlessly and swiftly into France

In the hot August days, amidst the dust of the battlefield it is not always so easy to keep up pressure. But these are momentous days and complete victory lies ahead—and this quickly—so long as we do not relent

Let us therefore continue to battle with renewed and ever greater energy

GENERAL MONTGOMERY *in a message to his troops on August 11*

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

DOWNFALL OF JAPS BEGUN IN BURMA

"You will find that when the history of this war comes to be written the fight here will be put down as one of the turning points of the war, when the Japs were routed and their downfall really began.

"There is no doubt that in fighting here you have hit them a terrific crack. Not only have you inflicted a tremendous defeat on them but, even more, you have dealt a damaging blow to their morale—and it is the breaking of the enemy's morale that finishes wars in the end.

"You have routed the Japs who quite lately were boasting that they had never known defeat. Now they have gone back about a hundred miles as badly defeated as any army can be.

"Our enemies have been on the run and things are looking extraordinarily bright. We may hope that the end will not be too long delayed."

H.E. LORD WAVELL, *addressing troops at Imphal, August 10.*

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THE FIGHTING EIGHTH INDIAN DIVISION

"I greatly appreciate the fine part played by the Eighth Indian Division in our successful advance to Florence. The pressure they exerted by their stubborn fighting on our left bank was a considerable factor in our success. Please convey congratulations to all ranks."

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR OLIVER LEESE, *Eighth Army Commander, August 13.*

❖

NAZI SYSTEM CRACKED

"I know not only by the events of July 20 (attempt on Hitler's life) but also by other happenings in Germany that the whole 'Hitler system' is cracked, militarily and politically. Hitler, Goering and Doenitz, in their wireless addresses, stressed that only a very small clique of generals was involved in the action. The truth is the other way round. The movement has reached such proportions that Hitler was compelled to admit to his Gauleiters what many Germans already know—that the men behind the uprising were important because of their far-reaching influence."

GENERAL SEYDLITZ, *President of the Free German National Committee, in a broadcast from Moscow, August 10.*

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GERMANY AND JAPAN ARE RECOILING

"On every battle front all over the world the armies of Germany and Japan are recoiling before the armed forces of many nations which in various groupings form a Grand Alliance."

MR. CHURCHILL *in the House of Commons, on August 2.*

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A BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS

THE armies of liberation are today marching on the crest of victory all over the world. Especially is this so in France. We have seen the rout of Hitler's most loyal troops, 100,000 of them in Normandy, and the successful invasion by our forces in the Riviera. At last brave Marianne is being rescued from the grim latter-day Bastille in which she has been imprisoned. Without any doubt the key of that Bastille is in the hands of General Eisenhower and General Sir Maitland Wilson and the great forces under their command. This grand march will continue, until not only France, but the whole of Europe and the whole world, is freed from the most accursed tyranny it has ever known.

THE B.B.C.'s call sign, "V for Victory" . . . —, gave courage to millions in Europe. That challenging phrase from the opening of the Fifth Symphony of Beethoven, known as Fate Knocking at the Door, has brought hope and success to the oppressed peoples of Europe. We hear from all countries of underground armies and Partisans, of the police-disguised Florentines who assisted the gallant Eighth Army in their assault on the entrenched Germans, of the mountain battles in Yugoslavia led by Marshal Tito in conference this week with Mr. Churchill and other Allied chiefs in Italy, of the uprisings in Poland which the ruthless Nazis thought they had crushed with their horrible massacres, and, in France of the Men of the Maquis, the French Forces of the Interior, the underground supporters of the Free French now fighting superbly under the leadership of General de Gaulle.

The Traitors of France

AS more and more contact is made with the people of France, and as our liberating Armies gather momentum in their ever-growing relief of France, it is worth while remembering that the battle for the freedom of France and the struggle with the savage Nazi looters and the Gestapo has never really ceased. "France has lost a battle" de Gaulle said in June 1940, "but France has not lost the war." That war has been fought by the selfless friends of democracy within terrorised France, not with tanks, aeroplanes and motorised columns, but with wits, sabotage and secret leaflets.

IT has been a battle against the men of Vichy, a battle against the vilest of masters, chiefly that quisling Pierre Laval who with Joseph Darnand, his Himmler and Marcel Deat, his pro-Nazi Minister of Labour, turned France into a huge workhouse to supply men and materials for Germany, in complete accord with Goebbels' boast in 1942: "If anyone goes hungry, it shall not be the German people."

DARNAND has massacred hundreds of thousands of French men and women. He and his ruffians make "preventive arrests," take hostages, order mass executions. Deat conscripted all men in France between 16 and 60 and all women without children between 18 and 45 to work for Germany in German factories.

The Men of the Maquis

THE word Maquis comes from a Corsican word which means "the bush" or "the heath". These are the modern Robin Hoods. Sabotage is their speciality. At the moment they are busy blowing up bridges, derailing trains, hampering in all sorts of ways the retreat of the fleeing German armies. They destroy power stations, wreck factories, and harass the enemy in every conceivable fashion. In villages in Haute Savoie the resisters are able openly to hold parades. It is reported by Mr. Wickham Steed that Bordeaux is partly in the hands of these brave sons of France.

THE war has done for France what we may hope it will do for the world, and for India. In France especially it has taught the great lesson of unity, of the need to fight together, of surrendering all pettinesses and politics to the single purpose of defeating the common foe. One is either a traitor or a patriot, either for or against the Hitler system. There can be no doubt that even the most conservative of French people have made their choice long ago. The strength of the French Forces of the Interior is proof of that.

HIS Majesty the King in his Christmas Day speech said: "There is springing up in every country fresh hope that out of comradeship in sacrifice shall come power to restore and power to build anew. . . we should take comfort from our faith that out of desolation shall rise a new hope, and out of strife be born a new brotherhood."

THESE hopeful inspiring words have not been uttered in vain. High and responsible leaders have emphasised the close harmony, the almost spiritual bond which is uniting the Armies of the United Nations, as, comrades in arms, they soldier together in the final struggle to crush the military might of the enemy. It is this wonderful spirit which is leading us on to victory and which will assure for the tortured and maltreated millions downtrodden in Europe and elsewhere, the right kind of civilisation when that victory is won.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Great Week for France and the Liberation of Europe

It is heartening to record a week of momentous Allied activity. Early came the liberation of Florence, almost simultaneous with the trapping of VON KLUGE's crack Seventh German Army in the Falaise Gap, while following rapidly on this good news came the startling invasion of the Riviera. The mighty invasion programme went on without a hitch, dropping 14,000 paratroops 5 miles behind Nice and Cannes. Fighters, bombers, gliders, and a Navy which included ships of many nationalities took part, including those of the Dutch, Greek and Polish Navies. All pulled their weight to make it an outstanding success.

It is all a sign of the closest cooperation between the whole United Nations Commands and should be regarded as part of the same offensive which is devastating the might of Germany in Normandy. The Allied Air Force has played a tremendous part in all this great battle for Europe. On Tuesday they made 6,000 sorties over the trapped German armies in Normandy. Raids have also been carried out over Holland and Belgium and Germany as part of the task of destroying all avenues of escape, smashing communications and bringing traffic to a standstill. Nobody expects HITLER, his fanatical S.S. divisions and the German military machine to crack overnight. They will fight to the bitter end. All that can be said is that we are spectators of the beginning of the last phase in the crushing of the nasty plans and the nasty power of the nastiest man who ever lived.

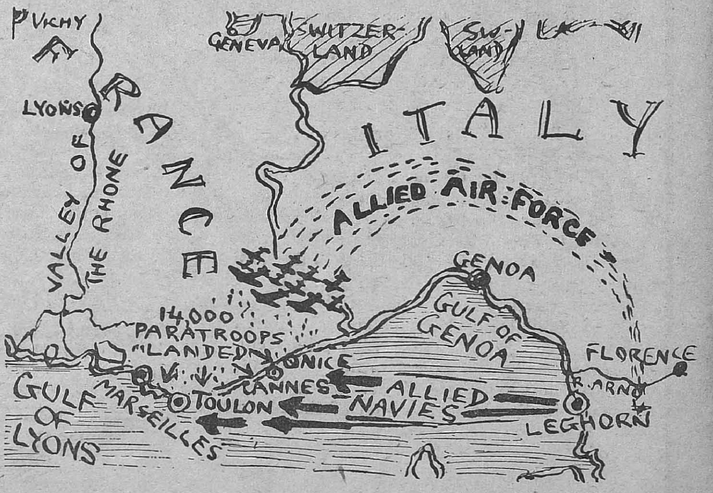
Soon these fronts which HITLER must be counting in the small hours of the night, will be closing in on Germany, until the life is throttled out of Nazidom. This week has been a thrilling demonstration of the perfect team-work and clockwork coordination of all the Forces of Liberation. The release of France from the Nazi tyranny is only the prelude to the liberation of the millions who have slaved and suffered in misery in Europe since HITLER began his reign of terror, and pillage. For all French peoples this week will bring tears of joy and we echo their cry "Vive La France!"

* * *

The Relief of Florence

Top news from the Italian front—apart from the presence of Mr. CHURCHILL—is the liberation of Florence. High praise has been given to the heroic work of the Italian Partisans who carried on their activities under the eyes of the Germans. The immediate task of the United Nations Army is to see that the city is fed, and while the Allies are remaining offensively outside the city, so as to give no opportunity to the Germans to begin reprisal shelling of the lovely town—an act of cussedness of which they are quite capable—the relief work continues, many tons of food being transported for the brave citizens who have been starved for eight days.

OUR LATEST SUCCESS



Allied Invasion of the South of France

Possible Signal for another New Phase of the War

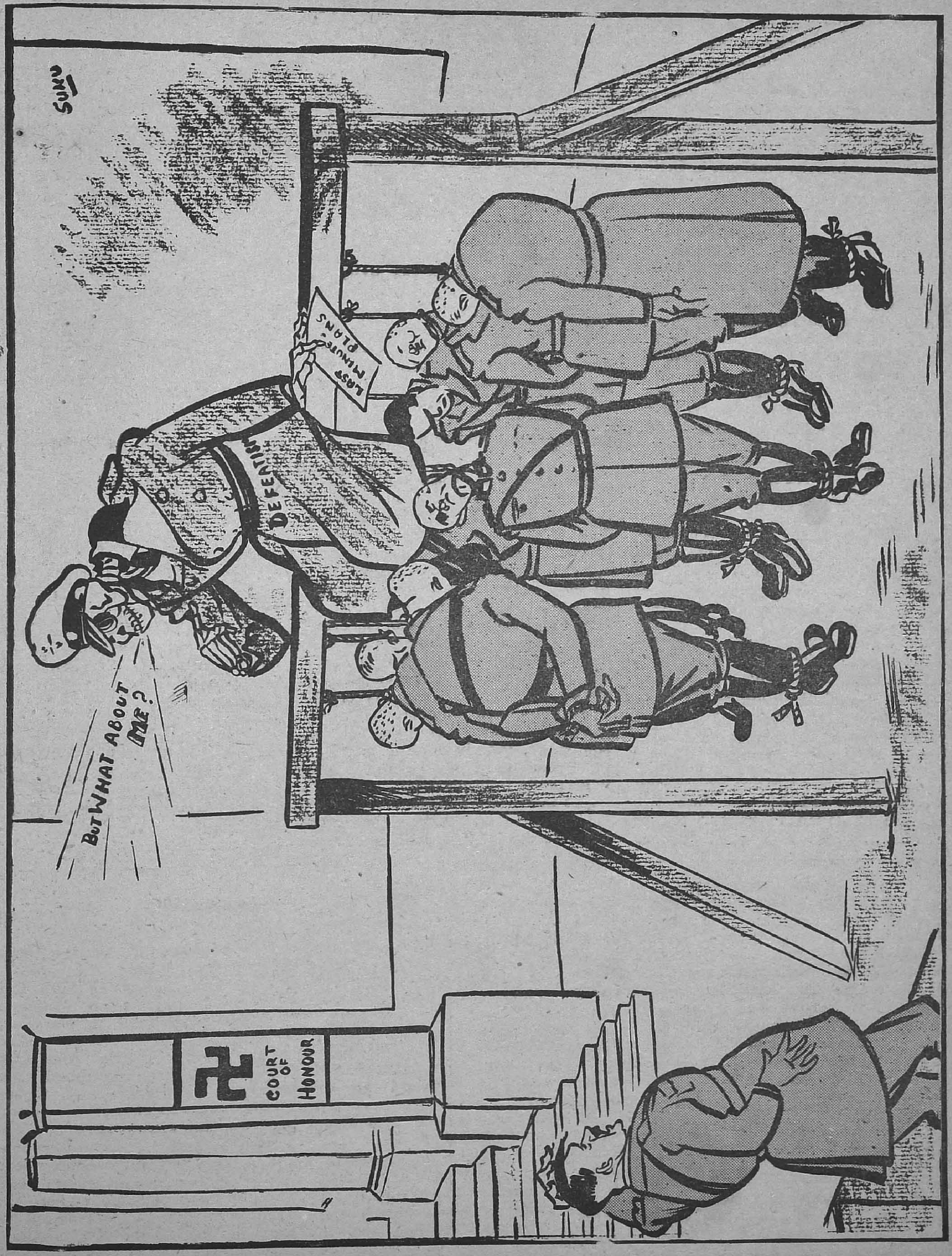
It was fairly obvious that events were rapidly reaching a climax, both speeches and the fast-moving fronts suggesting great action. In the strategical sense Florence in our hands has been the signal for further action on a grand scale in the south of France, just as the fall of Rome was the signal for the Second Front. Meanwhile Mr. CHURCHILL, following quickly on the visit of the King, was there with Marshal TITO and the Premier of Yugoslavia and a company of distinguished leaders of the Forces. Plans may be afoot for the deliverance of the Balkans. The next move lies in good hands, that we do know. The gates of HITLER's Fortress to the south-east and the south-west are weakly held and, as opportunity permits, the south-east gate may be the next to be broken down. Significant raids were made on Genoa, Marseilles and the Rhone Valley, and equally significant are the raids on centres in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Rumania. It all bodes very ill for the Germans.

* * *

Last Minute Touches

Great events are afoot. And in order that they shall reach as early a fulfilment as possible mum's the word as far as the enemy is concerned. But this may be said, that the travels of both Prime Minister CHURCHILL to the Italian and President ROOSEVELT to the Pacific theatres of war are indicative of last minute touches to the consolidated Allied plans. The heads of great nations at war do not waste time on unnecessary travel. They do not visit the corners of the earth out of idle curiosity. The enemy knows this—and—he will be kept guessing, whether he is an occidental or an oriental fascist! The important point about both these flying tours of battle areas is not their worrying effect on the Germans and the Japanese, but the unity in action which they so clearly signify. In this

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE



respect too the tour of the Viceroy in the Imphal region may be said to have its own special significance and to round off the picture of the interest taken at this juncture in the directing of the war—which we should always remember is *one* war although covering the globe, a war with two focal enemy centres, one in Tokyo and one in Berlin.

* * *

Highlights of Roosevelt's Speech Fresh from a regular gathering of the Battle Clans of the Pacific, Mr. ROOSEVELT delivered a speech this week from the Navy Yard at Bremerton, Washington. Describing the capture of the many groups of islands, of Guadalcanal, New Guinea, the Marshalls and the Marianas, he went on to say " The islands will make possible future operations in China—make possible the recapture and independence of the Philippines, and make possible the carrying of war into the home islands of Japan itself, and its capital city of Tokyo." Hard words these for KOISO and Company, to hear! " The word and honour of Japan cannot be trusted," he continued, " That is a simple statement. With the end of the Jap threat there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific area." Stressing the peaceful nature of the hundreds of millions of people of the Pacific, the President concluded: " It is an unfortunate fact that other nations cannot trust Japan: it is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass before we can trust Japan, and before we can classify Japan as a member of the Society of Nations who seeks permanent peace and whose word we can trust. In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent, we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat."

* * *

Steady Progress in Burma The monsoon is a double-edged natural calamity for armies on the move, whether they are on the offensive as ours has been in Burma, or whether they are on the run before supplies peter out altogether as in the case of the badly pressed Japanese. Battle under these conditions becomes more of a marine nature than one of true land fighting. It is good news to know that we have captured the Myitkyina railhead and are able in spite of the bad weather, to use this bit of railway which links up much further down with Mandalay, for the carrying of supplies. The rivers too are being used for conveying the necessities of life and war to the toughest army in the field. India is now virtually clear of the Japanese—so much for the would-be invaders.

What a mighty load of gratitude all India owes to the cosmopolitan Army and Air Force which made this possible! And not least of all to men like the Madrassis. There are henceforth no special " martial races ", there are only fighters and they come from every corner of the world, tough jungle-hardened men of outstanding valour. Now Upper Burma has begun its normal free life and we are all set for the next stage when the Japs consolidate their straggling forces and put up a stand in the south. But the outcome is certain. They know well who has the upper hand, who has the superiority in arms, equipment, and above all in morale, a point neatly emphasised by the Viceroy in his recent frontline tour. The cracking of that over-vaunted morale is the beginning of the treck down the road to ultimate defeat, just as it is the case with the hard-boiled (so they think) Nazis in Europe.

* * *

Grand Strategy in Russia By keeping her plans a close secret, the Russians are scoring heavily against the bewildered and trapped German armies in the Baltic Republics. First by by-passing Warsaw—let us hope the slight unpleasantness over the Polish resisters there will pass—to the north and south, then by driving great wedges to the Baltic Sea through Latvia to Riga and through Estonia to the coast while at the same time thrusting spear-heads into East Prussia, the Russians are wisely giving the Germans no respite, no time to unify their bottled-up armies. We are witnessing octopus tactics of a really clever scientific kind.

We are not told what the nature of the talks have been between the Polish President and Marshal STALIN, but it is quite possible that the future of East Prussia had something to do with it. East Prussia historically has more links with Poland than with Germany. But first the Teutonic Knights and then the Junker landlords laid claim to it and exploited it for political and strategical purposes. Economically East Prussia has had to be subsidised by Germany, and with a very thin population—somehow Germans would not respond to the intensive propaganda to induce them to settle in East Prussia—it is a fact that at each harvest the territory suffers very acutely from a shortage of labour, only relieved by 25,000 Polish agricultural labourers crossing the border. It is therefore only natural to expect Poland to bid for East Prussia when she has so many fairly justifiable claims to the land.

PRAYER FOR THE TIME OF VICTORY

(*By* R.G.)

When in their hands our people fold
The prize for which they spill their blood,
Not over-proud nor over-bold
Be statesmen then,
But mindful of the savage flood
So hardly crossed. Let Pity hold,
And clear-eyed Truth, the reins for men.

When out of mist and shadow of death
The pilgrim world to hilltop strains
And stands awhile with labouring breath
To scan what lies
In blue and distance-shrouded plains,
Be Hope and Charity and Faith
The guides to clear the leaders' eyes.

Oasis in an endless waste
Were victory by power abused.
Be ours—hard-won and precious-graced
With freedom's crown.
Justice, that our wise people used
To cure their own ills, and shall haste
To claim for all, as for their own.

In those broad plains that lie ahead
Stake out the claim, and mete it well.
The price was paid by all the dead:
Remember them!
And outlaw all the brood of Hell,
Lest tears should flow and blood be shed
Once more to nullify the claim.

KING SEES INDIAN AND OTHER TROOPS IN ITALY

By ERIC LINKLATER

DURING his two-day visit to the Eighth Army in Italy, His Majesty King George VI travelled hundreds of miles by road and by air. In the course of his journey—over the fertile plains and rolling hills of Umbria, through the highlands and mountain passes of Tuscany—he saw for himself many of the natural difficulties that have confronted his troops as they fought their way forward through a country that presents almost every imaginable obstacle to the attackers and gives the defenders every conceivable advantage.

AMAZING DIVERSITY OF TROOPS

For several miles of his progress, the King rode in a jeep over a steeply twisting trail that the Indian Army had built to provide a line of communication through hitherto inaccessible country. From a landing-strip in the mountains he flew to a more conventional airport in one of those admirable light aircraft which increasingly serve the Commanding Officers for reconnaissance and on which the gunners so much depend for observation.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of His Majesty's visit, however, was the diversity of troops who saluted him and then so loudly cheered him as he passed. They lined mile after mile of the road. Here was a platoon troop or a field squadron and there a single sentry; then a workshop company and a battery of Royal Artillery; then an irregular column of infantry upon the hillside or forming an avenue along the road. All the men were bronzed and fit; all of them loudly cheerful and buoyantly confident. In their glowing health and optimism they represented nearly all parts of the Commonwealth from New Zealand to the Canadian prairie and every arm of service.

THE MADRASSIS WERE THERE

The King's route lay through provinces that were lately in the hands of the enemy. Our advance into them and through them was made under cover of fire from Royal Artillery over roads repaired and bridges built by Royal Engineers and our conquest of them was effected by some of the most famous regiments in the Army list. The regiments who lined the King's way through Italy are the lineal descendants of men who fought under Marlborough, who fought in all our many wars since then, and who now with the native-borne steadiness of their kind have consistently borne the heaviest burden of the Eighth Army's campaign out of Egypt to the Arno.

The diversity of the Commonwealth forces was strikingly exhibited in the ranks of the Indian units. Here were bearded Sikhs and lean Mahrattas, Punjabi Mussalmans, men from Madras and men from the Frontier and solid little soldiers from the mountain kingdom of Nepal.

WATCHES ATTACK BY INDIAN INFANTRY

It was very fitting that one of the three Victoria Crosses that the King presented during his tour was given to an Indian sepoy, Kamal Ram. Though much of the world's currency has depreciated in recent years, the value of the Victoria Cross has, if anything, been enhanced.

His Majesty saw many soldiers of New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. It was characteristic of the war in Italy, that abounds in little salients and is often carried forward by an aggregation of small actions, that the King was able to watch the progress of an attack by Indian infantry, with tanks and artillery in support, on a ridge within easy range of himself and his staff. The attack was typical of a hundred that have been made in the last few weeks.

It was, indeed, a royal progress through Umbria and Tuscany, but through the royalty of the King, his humanity shone clearly even in the hot light of the Italian sun and the soldiers who cheered him so loudly and so happily were demonstrating not only their loyalty to the monarch but their proud affection for the man.

H.M. the King cordially shaking hands with an Indian soldier.

H.M. the King is seen in intimate conversation with an Indian soldier.

Troops of an Indian Division line the road and cheer the King as he passes seated on the hood of his car.

HOW THE FRENCH IN FRANCE FIGHT ON

By HILARY ST GEORGE SAUNDERS

Who are the real Frenchmen? Not the collaborators, who are few in number and hated by their countrymen. The ordinary men and women who fight on,—these are the real France.

LIKE many others I have of late wondered what reception the sailors, soldiers and airmen, British and American, will get as they set foot on the soil of France. Some of them, those who went through Dunkirk, have been there before during this war. A few will have memories of what France was like in the last war, but for the great majority this trip to the country of our ally is the first.

I write ally advisedly, for that is the first point I would make. France is our ally and has never ceased to be our ally. But by France I do not mean Petain and Laval, de Brinon and Darnand, and all the other men of Vichy, that crowd of now trembling collaborationists. Nor do I mean the herd of white-faced officials whispering in the corridors and on the broad, blue-carpeted staircase of the French Ministry of Information during those dreadful June days in 1940, when I watched the faint-hearted begin to run away and the Fifth Columnists raise their dishonourable heads. Nor do I mean the rich bourgeois with their wives and daughters, packing the restaurants and cafe terraces at Bordeaux and proclaiming in a variety of tones the one theme "the Germans are, after all, very correct." No, I do not mean these, who number, all told, but a few thousand of the forty millions of French men and women. I mean the real French, the workers in the red belt round Paris, whose leaders Daladier so unwisely proscribed in 1939; the farmer and the farm-hands in the countless fields of France; the wood-cutters and charcoal burners in her forests; the vine dressers in her vineyards; the butchers, the bakers, the garage hands, the grocers, and the rest with their one-man businesses in her provincial towns and villages; the engine and lorry drivers; the electricians, the factory operatives—in a word, all the workers, from the highly skilled to the errand boys who used to deliver the long, pointed French loaves. Nor would I forget the local authorities, the mayor and the sub-prefect. Yes, and the village cure and the village policeman—all those elements, in fact, which form the body of the French nation, and which have never lost or betrayed her soul.

These are our allies and have always been our allies, and it is these people whom our soldiers will meet. Not all of them; many thousands are already dead, many thousands are still to die. For they are the actual or potential casualties of a great army, the plain clothes army of France.

THE REAL FRANCE FIGHTS ON

Of late, many of us have listened to talk about what the French will do in the invasion. Well, I believe that that army will continue to fight with redoubled ardour. I say deliberately "continue to fight" for they have been in action since the 18th June 1940. Therefore, I think, the invading troops are going to meet fighters, and fighters who have waged war for four long years. There has gradually grown up among some of us a tendency to judge the French by the conduct of those who are living outside her borders, by that of the exiles. Many of them are in arms and have fought gallantly in many places, on land at Bir Hakim, Tunisia, Southern Italy, on sea in the Atlantic, and in the air all over Western Europe. But the ordinary man does not see much of these men and he is apt to derive his impressions of France from what he reads in the Press about the difficulties and disputes surrounding the birth and childhood of the French National Committee in Algiers. That exiles should quarrel among themselves seems inevitable. If Englishmen had been forced to flee from this island, say to Canada, and there establish a fighting base, I do not suppose for a moment they would have presented a united political front. Tories would have remained Tories, Socialists Socialists. In the free atmosphere of Canada or the United States they would have stuck to their opinions and been allowed to stick to them.

That is what has happened among some of the emigres over here. But over them, I fancy, there is no need to worry. They have their chosen war leader, and the difficulties which he has encountered in uniting them for the purpose of carrying on the fight and which he seems very largely to have overcome, need be of no concern to the man in the assault landing craft. The emigres will be at his side or behind him. It is those in front who matter, and about them he can feel reassured. He will not find quarrels and bickerings in France itself. Of that I am convinced. He will not find them for the simple reason that France is not free and that the very fact of having to exist under the heel of a hated and hereditary foe has caused differences of politics, of class, of religion, to disappear. This plain clothes army is as united in the business of fighting as are our own men, who wear the King's uniform or that of the United States. I have heard too many stories of what is going on and has been going on, in France for the last four years, to have any doubt in my mind on this. These stories will one day be told in detail, and it will be found that they all have the same plot; how the Communist was snatched from the clutches of the Gestapo by the local cure, and how the two then went together to contrive the escape from prison of the local Count.

LIBERATION AT LAST!—How French inhabitants of Le Beny Bocage in Normandy greeted one of the first Britishers to enter the town.

TOUGHENED BY OPPRESSION

Besides unity, I think our men are going to find a passionate desire for action based on a hatred of the Germans which even we in this country, with all we have gone through, find hard to measure. To such an extent is this hatred a solid thing in the life of the Frenchman to-day that those controlling the Underground Movement have, especially of late, had the greatest difficulty in inducing the population, especially the working classes, to have patience, not to strike until we struck, not to rise against their oppressors until the invasion fleet was hull up over the horizon. The occasions in which French workmen, goaded beyond endurance, have paid the instant and final penalty are too numerous to leave any doubt on that score.

A third thing the invaders will find which may surprise them is the great toughness of the population. We know our own soldiers and those of our Allies possess that quality and, indeed, the enemy has more than once acknowledged it. Well, in a competition in toughness the French will certainly not take second place. In one terrible respect their plain clothes army differs from our own. Our soldiers go out to fight knowing that behind them their loved ones—wife, children, mother, sister—are comparatively safe. True, they may fall victims to a German bomb. True, most of them are working hard. True, the allowances paid to them may not be as high or as generous as they would like; but they have enough to eat; the children are at school; there is the cinema at the end of the

road, and, above all, they can say what they like to whom they please. But what is the position of the French plain clothes soldier ? If the Germans suspect his identity, not only is he shewn no mercy, but his relatives, even on occasion to distant cousins, suffer his fate. So much is this so that the men of the Maquis take an oath never to communicate with their families and to pass under assumed names. They are comparatively fortunate. It is the registers in the towns, the doctor in his consulting room, or the priest in his vestry, or the baker in his shop, who run even greater risks ; for they fight knowing that if they are caught their whole families are wiped out. They are the greatest heroes of all. So the French will certainly be tough.

I fancy that not many of the Gestapo will be met with, the true Gestapo, that is, the German brand. The Hun is a shade too clever for that. He has for long worked through French traitors, that Submerged Tenth which is to be found in all great nations and which is normally kept behind bars. It did not take the Germans very long to make use of them.

WHO ARE THE VICHY POLICE?

As for the French police, most of the original force has disappeared. Many have been forcibly pensioned, many shot. The Germans never really trusted them, nor did Petain or Laval. Their attitude can, I think, be summed up in the words of one of them who, when making an arrest, was reproached by his victim, a member of the Underground Movement, for helping the enemy. "My grandfather was ruined by the Boche in 1870," he said. "My father was killed by them in 1914. I, myself, have been ruined by them in 1940. Do you think I have any love for them? I am doing my duty now because if I did not, even worse would befall. Mine is a harder task than yours. You have only to fight ; I have to pretend and by so doing help you to fight." He let the man go and was soon afterwards found out and shot.

Many of the Vichy police are composed of young men who entered their ranks to escape forced labour in Germany. From the German point of view they, too, are not reliable, any more than the bourgoisie, though here I think caution is necessary. The well-to-do have many of them been more concerned with keeping their possessions and maintaining their standard of life than with fighting back. Theirs is the class who enthusiastically supported Petain. "The old Marshal, he will see us through," they said, and were content to put upon his aged shoulders all the responsibilities which they refused to face. As the months, then the years crawled by and Britain, far from giving way, began to hit back, these gentry became uneasy. Their consciences began to prick them and, worse still, their pockets felt insecure. Now many of them are seeking to trim their sails to the tremendous wind which is blowing out of the west. They are trying to follow in the wake of those honourable exceptions to their class, regular officers many of them, who have never ceased to fight. Petain has become a doddering symbol and Laval a broken reed. For some months now that arch-enemy of England has not dared to move about except in an armoured car surrounded by a strong motor-cycle escort armed with sub-machine guns. He dare not quit even Vichy in any other fashion.

Let this article end with an authenticated story to show the spirit of the French. One of them, who owned a printing works, presently began stealthily to produce one of the two hundred clandestine newspapers which are now circulating in Europe. Little by little, he took the few workmen he employed into his confidence. Little by little, circulation increased. The trouble was to get the paper on which to print it. Presently, mysterious thefts of paper from the quota he was allowed began to take place at short, irregular intervals. The Germans were angry, so was the owner of the plant. He went to them with tears in his eyes. He could not understand it. He had set a severe watch and still quantities of paper disappeared. He himself was the thief. Then money failed, for it costs a lot to produce a clandestine newspaper and he could no longer pay his workmen. They came to him in a body and said, "We will be paid by victory." Of course, he was caught in the end and dragged to gaol by a French agent. When the man locked him into a cell he pulled out a copy of the clandestine newspaper from his pocket and said, "This is my most treasured possession."

There, then, is France as I believe she is to-day, "a land of frequent incombustions, full of massacres," but a land, too, where hope still flourishes and where gaunt, determined men, who have nothing more to lose, wait in their thousands with eager knives prepared to play their part in the great battle which will give them freedom.

—*With acknowledgments to* Picture Post.

Russian Military Mission visits British front in Normandy. Left to right: Colonel Jorbarov, General Dempsey (G.O.C. 2nd Army), Major General Vasiliev, Major General Sklyarov and Vice-Admiral Kharlamov (Leader of the Mission).

Infantry searches for snipers in ruined houses near Banneville.

This picture gives some idea of how the recent wet weather made heavy going for the Allied forces in France.

Mud on the road leading out of Cheux just north of the Odon.

THEY COVERED THEM

Tough, happy warriors of

now on leav

" We mean to finish the job. "

NOT for many a long day will the South Indian soldier coming home on leave for a spell of rest from the Battle in Burma forget the endearing welcome extended to him by that tireless band of workers, " the Madras Hospitality Committee, " writes an Indian Army Observer.

" A further batch of nearly 1,700 South Indian Troops arrived in Madras on 9th August from Burma, including a few British and Indian Officers, and they were most pleasantly surprised to see flags flying in honour of their arrival and a big placard ' SHABASH, 14th ARMY ! MADRAS IS PROUD OF YOU ' greeting them. Music provided by the National War Front Loud-speaker van added a further pleasant touch. The Sub-Area Commander was present officially to welcome the boys home.

As the men each, carrying his bed roll, wreathed in smiles, came along, they were every one of them given a cup of tea and a cigarette by the ladies of the Madras Hospitality Committee. In transport specially waiting for them, they were taken to the rest camp, where they were regaled with choice South Indian dishes. Many well known ladies of Madras were there busy looking after the home-coming heroes. Lady Hope was there too, tirelessly moving about from group to group and personally serving food. I am sure the men must have been touched by Lady Hope's personal solicitude for their comfort and well-being.

Her Excellency Lady Hope on her way with a jug of hot tea for the men.

"I helped to give them that hiding."

Madras at last ! Fresh arrivals.

" Does anyb

SELVES WITH GLORY

e mighty Fourteenth Army,
from Burma

" The Japs Just can't take it. "

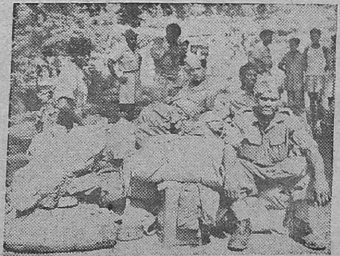
After the refreshments one could see parties of leave troops all over the city sight-seeing and buying odds and ends to take home to their dear and near ones. They were more like a party of excursionists than men who had braved death in the front lines of Burma.

I met a young Madrassi Lieutenant, an Officer in the Engineers, who had very interesting things to say, and who has been mentioned in despatches. Another Madrassi Officer, also a Lieutenant, spoke to me of the excellent name the Madrassi Gunner has built for himself in the Burma fighting. There was a Subedar from Chittoor district and a Jemadar from Tellicherry, who gave graphic accounts of the great work done by Madras Sappers and Miners.

Finally, there was a veteran; he had been a cook in the forward areas. He was all happiness and when I asked him if he found conditions too tough, he retorted, " When generals and brigadiers were roughing it out like the ordinary sepoy, what was there for us to grumble about"—The same spirit that animated the men under Lord Clive at the historic siege of Arcot, unflinching devotion to a great cause even in the hour of direst peril. Of such stuff is the Madrassi soldier made, and the Madrassi Soldier today is cast in the same heroic mould of his illustrious forbear in history.

Men pass under the arch of welcome.

t more tea ? "



Home once again.

" Will you come back with us ? "

LIFE IN THE RAW ON SALWEEN RIVER FRONT

CALL IT 'JUST PLAIN GUTS'

By CAPT. H. DONALD KNIGHT

Capt. H. Donald Knight recently returned to Headquarters of the Y-Force Operations Staff, Southwest China, following a tour of duty with an American air support team in the precipitous mountains of the Kaoli Kung Range, west of the Salween River. It is in this area that American liaison officers, headed by Brig. Gen. Frank Dorn, are advising and aiding Chinese troops in their drive against the Japanese to break the two-year blockade of the Burma Road.

CALL it "intestinal fortitude" or just plain "guts," American officers and enlisted men now serving with the Chinese armies in the Salween River area in western Yunnan Province have it.

It is almost impossible to describe the ruggedness of the mountain trails over which all progress must be made. Rising to heights as much as 12,000 feet, they are frequently so precipitous that it is impossible for men and animals to ascend. Paths must zigzag dizzily in order to give any footing to the marching troops.

Frequently, trails are beds of streams, with cobbles for footing, so that pack animals slip and slide and must be dragged over spots by the soldiers. When a monsoon rain floods the stream course, it is necessary to wade through the water.

TURNS TO GUMBO

Some trails are covered with black soil which turns to gumbo in the rains, clinging to heavy G.I. shoes until they begin to appear like "wedgies" on a Jersey beach. Others are of a slick clay composition, which results in a two-steps-forward-one-step-back snail progress uphill and a sudden roller-coaster effect on the descent, a misstep throwing the walker forward, gyrating wildly in an attempt to regain balance before he misses a curve and goes over a cliff.

Because of the sheerness of the trails and the altitude of this "highest battle-ground in the world," breathing becomes laboured and there are times when the only way a man can reach a mountain crest is to sight a tree or stump 50 yards in advance and say to himself, "I'll get that far or die trying", and then pull himself to the goal by determination alone.

Descent, curiously, is no easier. True, one does not have the sensation of lungs splitting the chest, but the descent is so difficult and long that calf muscles are knotted and knees lose all sensation.

NEW TO YANKS

To most Americans out here, this is a new type of country—but they are taking it in stride. Much admired is Lt.-Col. Oscar R. Zipf, 50-year old commander of an air support team. In spite of his years the colonel arrives with his men and is ready to begin work even after a 10-hour marching day —no mean feat for even younger men.

Few of the Americans on this campaign are expert horsemen or mule packers. All transportation is of necessity by pack animal or Chinese coolie and there are not enough "ma fus" or grooms, to go around, so every American is now a "ma fu."

The first few days of packing the light wooden frames were heartbreaking. Loads were too heavy—a pack-animal will only carry from 80 to 120 pounds—and the animals refused to move. If packs were not perfectly balanced, the bouncing of the animal soon slid the frame from the saddle, sometimes to roll down into a deep ravine from which the load had to be packed up by hand, piecemeal.

But the men learned, and now it is a rare occasion when a pack is lost or thrown. Perfect balance is achieved, if necessary, by the addition of a convenient rock on the light side of the

(*Continued on page* 14)

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

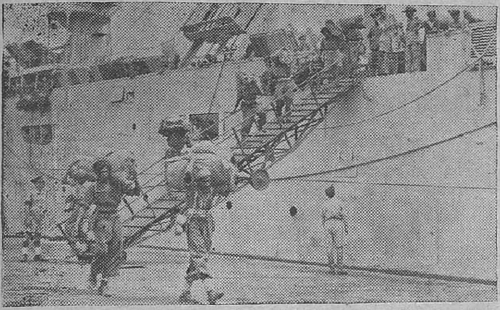
(*By* R.G.)

CANTO IV—*First Instalment.*

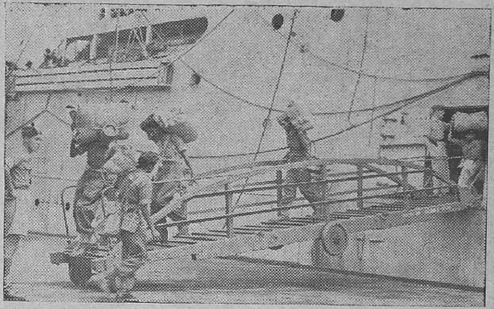
Through August and September too
With mighty deeds of derring-do
The boys of Britain played a hand
Lonely and dangerous and grand
And struck down from the cleanly air
Birds with no business to be there,
The buzzards of the bloody claw,
The vultures beyond pale and law;
While on the seas their fellows kept
(In all the ocean's lore adept)
Their vigil through the night and day
And kept the U-boat packs at bay.

Seshiah followed with delight
The fortunes of the unequal fight,
Not merely loving the excitement
But understanding what the fight meant.
For by this time he's done his best
With a praiseworthy interest
To find out who was who and why
This side and that thought fit to die:
And having worked out what was what
He thought the Nazis should be shot.
(A pity, may be, that the leaders
And writers of the press and readers
Throughout the land did not likewise
Regard the facts with open eyes.
But at this time a noted saint
Was voicing loudly his complaint
That Britons would not just invite
Hitler to walk with all his might
Upon their faces, and so prove
The power of non-violent love;
While others, though they half conceded
A little violence was needed
To make the world a safer place,
Said they could not without disgrace
Accept positions by the side
Of Britain's Viceroy; for their pride
Required that as a Cabinet
They should in full control be set:
And to such mighty men it sounds ill
To be dubbed Members of a Council.)

MEN OF THE GALLANT FOURTEENTH ARMY ARRIVE ON LEAVE FROM BURMA



Hurry up there!



Gangway for heroes.

All ashore.

The warriors line up.

Off at last.

Now for that cup of tea.

(*Continued from page* 12)

load. Chinese rope ties have been mastered and it is seldom that part of the load now slips from its mooring to allow the pack to fall off.

Americans are eating the Chinese staple—rice. A quarter of a can of C-rations per man—stew, meat and beans, or hash—is thinned by the addition of water and spread over the rice to relieve the dryness. Occasionally, when not-so-sweet brown sugar is available locally, it is melted and poured into wet rice in a canteen cup.

Once in a while it is possible to shoot a wild pig or to buy a steer, which is then divided among the American personnel in the area and furnishes a dinner reminiscent of the Waldorf. But the diet is largely rice, two meals a day.

Even American field officers stand guard at night—there is always the possibility of a small Jap patrol creeping through the lines. Jap artillery, fortunately, is scarce. Immediately after one Chinese unit crossed the Salween, however, the Japs began to drop a shell or two daily from the one 75-howitzer they possessed, into division headquarters area.

'WHISTLING MAMIE'

The shell christened by the Americans as "Whistling Mamie," did little or no damage, although one landed in a stream just above an American radio team whose members were indulging in a bath. Another hit about 100 yards from an air support party.

When the Chinese move forward the Americans move with them. The veterinary men take care of both Chinese and American horses, the artillerymen are on hand to advise the Chinese artillery crews, the medicos follow with their portable surgical hospitals.

Several Americans have managed to kill Japs. One artillery sergeant has developed a system whereby he uses the Chinese to flush a Jap, whereupon he circles until he gets close enough to fire his rifle unerringly. So far he has five Japs to his credit.

Almost every American has lost from 15 to 30 pounds in six weeks: almost all have had diarrhœa or some other disorder. Those seriously ill have been flown back to headquarters by liaison planes for medical attention.

Mail has been arriving with startling regularity, either flown in by liaison plane or brought in by pack train. Some curious incidents have occurred in this connection. One officer received a package containing over 25 bars of soap, after days of calculation on how to reduce the weight of his personal luggage. Another man received two cartons of cigarettes just as his entire party had exhausted their supply of cigarettes and pipe tobacco. Packages of food or candy are like manna from Heaven.

AIR SUPPORT

Air support, although considerably hampered by weather, has been remarkably successful. P-40's have dropped 500 pound bombs in direct hits upon pillboxes and a considerable number of Japs have been found dead from .50 calibre airplane machine-gun "lead poisoning."—*From C.B.I. Roundup.*

Mr. Churchill paid a flying visit to General Montgomery to get first-hand information about the recent Allied advance in France. This was the Prime Minister's third visit to France since the landings.

OUR BEVIN BOYS

Encouraged by British Firms.

The following extracts from the correspondence received by a leading Indian Company, from Britain show the readiness with which important British firms provide free and valuable training to three Indians under the Bevin Boys' Scheme:—

"Both trainees, that is K.D. Nominal Roll No. 8/21 and J.K. Nominal Roll No. 8/52, were sent to us for training under the Ministry of Labour and National Service Indian Training Scheme. They were with us for a period of eight weeks, leaving on April 7, 1944 presumably to return to India. Their training at these works consisted chiefly of grinding and sieving magnesium aluminium alloy—weighing, mixing, drying and storing of composition—priming and all operations on mechanical filling and finishing. Their work and behaviour during their period of training here was exceptionally good."

"As a matter of interest, Dr. S.C. who is a qualified medical practitioner has been given a temporary appointment as Assistant in the Medical Section of the Dyestuffs Division to enable him to gain first-hand experience in industrial medicine. This appointment was made primarily as a matter of goodwill and not with any particular idea that Dr. C. would seek or be offered the position by I.C.I. (India), Limited, when he returns to India. It was thought that there were very few, if any, medical practitioners in India, having experience of industrial medicine as practised in this country, and that as Dr. C. could make himself useful at Manchester it would be a gesture to let him acquire this experience which he could take back with him to India."

Dr. C. is being paid during his period of work and study with the Dyestuffs Division.

INSIDE JAPAN

By SEISAKU SHIONI

The author, a former Japanese consular official, has been in China since 1938, participating in anti-Japanese revolutionary work. Aged 30, he is a graduate of the French department of the National Osaka School of Foreign Languages. He was sent to Hanoi, Indo-China, in 1936, to work in the Japanese Consulate-General in that city. Two years later a car in which he was driving inadvertently crossed the Chinese border, and he was captured. Amazed at the good treatment he received, he, within three months, volunteered to work for the Anti-Fascist cause.

ALTHOUGH I have been in China for over five years I have been able to keep in touch with the conditions in Japan, thanks to our underground channels of information and the Chinese secret service. The Japanese people live a life of ration cards under the strain of war. The control is so strict that it is commonly whispered that life itself is rationed in Japan. The commodity price situation is not as serious as it has been reported abroad, for the Japanese Government has long adopted a strict system of price control. However, readjustments in private incomes, especially among the salaried class, have, ever since the beginning, lagged far behind the rise of prices. Thus the salaried class suffer the most.

RATIONING BEGAN IN 1938

The real trouble in Japan's economic set-up is the acute shortage in materials and consumer goods. This will be further aggravated by the Government's decision to suspend "non-essential manufacturing in favour of war production." The Japanese solution for the shortage of goods is rationing. The system was first introduced in May 1938, when the purchase of mineral oil in Japan had to be done through ration cards. The first consumer's goods put under the rationing system were sugar and matches, first rationed in June 1940. Since then the list has been constantly enlarged so that it now comprises all daily necessities of Japanese life.

The goods are distributed through "neighbourhood association" every month or ten days. Each association has about ten families and is headed by a president appointed by the police. The goods are bought with cash on a basis of ration cards. Goods can also be bought in the black market. The black market prices are sky-high, although the available goods sold in such markets are rather limited.

8 lb. OF RICE A MONTH

Each adult gets only about 8 lb. of rice a month—and rice is the staple food in Japan. This explains the cry for more food production in Japan and occupied China. As each adult needs about 22 lb. of rice a month (workmen need more) the amount allowed is far from sufficient. This deficiency is usually made up by potatoes, millet and other cereals. This also explains why the Japanese Government recently ordered the increased production of potatoes for rice-consuming people. For those who have to eat away from home meal tickets are issued by the authorities. Only people with meal tickets are allowed to eat in restaurants. It is now a common practice for Japanese people to carry their own rice when they go visiting. Even farmers do not have enough rice for their own consumption, for all the crop is brought by the Government at arbitrary prices.

The poor harvest in Korea (in 1942 ten million piculs less than average) and the shortage of shipping for the transport of rice produced in Japanese-occupied areas in south-eastern Asia further aggravate the food shortage.

Sugar, salt, sauce and other seasoning materials are rationed. Each person can only get half a catty (3/5 lb.) of sugar, half a catty of bean curd, half a catty of biscuits or cakes, and one pint of wine each month. The amount may be reduced as Japan's all-out munition production will further curtail the manufacture of cakes, and the shortage or rice production will give the ration still less wine.

For families with more than ten persons ten "special packages" of matches (each with 230 matches) are allowed each month. Six packages are issued to families over six. For families with five persons ten "ordinary packages" (70 matches each) are allowed each month. Two packages each month are issued to families with less than four persons, thus each person averages one package of matches a month—not sufficient for smoking purposes. Each person is allowed a cake of toilet soap and a cake of laundry soap each month, hardly enough for the family washing.

There are other goods which are rationed only when a stock is available. Among them are beer, soda water, paper and eggs. Each person gets one or two eggs a month, and it takes one or two months before the second stock is accumulated and rationed. The shortage of eggs can hardly be made up by keeping chickens as there is not enough chicken feed for the purpose. What was formerly chicken feed is now earmarked as food for the people. The Government is now encouragnig the raising of rabbits to supplement the nation's meat supply.

Even the supply of fish, the second most important supply of food for the Japanese people, is reduced under the strain of war. A large number of fishing boats have been commandeered to serve as patrol boats, and the drafting of young men from coastal villages has also created a man-power shortage in the fishing industry.

The production of vegetables is reduced as most of the larger vegetable gardens are devoted to the production of rice. Japanese gardens are ordered to grow vegetables instead of flowers.

Housewives have to go to the markets every morning at 3 a.m. and stand in long queues for the day's shopping.

SYNTHETIC COTTON CLOTHES

The rationing of clothes started in February 1942. It includes nearly every type of garment. Each year a person residing in any of the big cities is allowed 100 coupons, while one living in a village is allowed 80. But since the coupons required for each garment in 1943 were increased about 25 per cent, last year's card got one-fourth less than those of 1942. For 1943 each suit required 63, an overcoat 50, a "people's uniform" 40, a raincoat 38, a woman's dress 35, a shirt 15, a suit of summer underwear 16, socks 3, a towel 3, and a handkerchief 2. Most of the clothes are made of synthetic cotton, as raw cotton is mainly diverted to war production. Clothes made of synthetic cotton become shreds after two or three washings. Besides encouraging the use of *geta* (wooden slippers) Japan's war-time footwear is mainly made of pig skin or fish skin instead of leather. These pig or fish skin shoes lose their shape or crack after getting wet, and Japan is a rainy country.

The shortage of consumer goods in Japan is already acute, yet the situation is further deteriorating with the increase of war strain on the nation. The Government issued warnings of a food shortage last winter. The conversion of all "non-essential" factories into war plants will further curtail the production of consumer goods. The situation will be further worsened if the Allies can begin a large-scale bombing offensive against Japanese industrial cities and dislocate the nation's production and transport.

ARMY ENGINEERS BUILD A HOSPITAL

Forward hospitals often have primitive beginnings and ambitious endings. Here is the story of a hospital project, typical of other hospital histories, in the development of which British and Indian engineers have played so conspicuous a part near the Indo-Burma front, writes an Indian Army Observer.

In an area in East Bengal one Indian General Hospital scheme had its beginnings in May 1943. As the work proceeded tents were gradually pulled down and patients housed in comfortable bashas.

Pending the construction of a bamboo building the one brick structure standing on the site—an old cookhouse—was converted into an operating theatre. It had a white ceiling, several sinks and taps. It has been one of the most successful adaptations yet carried out by the engineers.

The engineers are now working on a new hospital with laminated doors, cement walls and ceilings. In place of glass, which is no longer available, a paper substitute will be used.

When completed this hospital will have the best-equipped operating theatre east of Calcutta. To house casualties from the front as well as dealing with local cases there will be 750 beds, of which 500 are now ready for use.

THOMAS MANN INDICTS NAZISM

THE following quotations are from a broadcast message (in German) addressed to the German people by Thomas Mann, the famous German novelist and Noble Prize winner. A convinced democrat and anti-Nazi, he was forced to flee from Germany in 1933 when Hitler came to power. His books were publicly burned, and he was deprived of German citizenship. After spending some years in France and Czechoslovakia, Mann has been living in the United States since 1938. This message of the world-famous German intellectual is the most damning indictment of Nazism:—

"Greek mythology tells of a King Midas, who turned everything that he touched into gold. To-day we know from our own experience that there is a touch that turns everything, however fine, immediately into filth. National Socialism is the possessor of this disgusting gift. *All contemporary ideas, born of the spirit, of hope for the future, of desire for the perfection of social living, all that is good and benevolent, all this National Socialism grabs for itself, steals it, warps it, distorts, spoils and sullies it, invests it with a revolting misshape with a smell of hellish disgust. Everything that National Socialism lays hold of—and it lays hold of everything—in its hands inevitably turns to dirt and vomit . . . the strongest and most characteristic element in this horrible phenomenon is the element of degradation. It has degraded all ideas that have won the allegiance of the best throughout the world, and turned them into something that no decent human being any longer wishes to consider. The ideas of Socialism, of revolution, of peace, of patriotism, to name but a few. It would be a worthy, though distasteful, task to show in detail how it has perverted them all and dragged them in the gutter.*"

" . . . The concept of Europe was beloved and dear to us, a natural part of our thoughts and aspirations. It was the antithesis of provincial stuffiness, of narrow egotism, of nationalistic crudity and ignorance; it stood for liberty, space, spirit and goodness. National Socialism took the matter up. It (National Socialism) too speaks of 'Europe,' but in exactly the same way as it speaks of 'revolution,' 'peace' or 'patriotism'. *It is not Germany that is to become European, but Europe that is to become German. Against the desperate resistance of nations, wading in blood amidst a din of wails and curses, insensible to a hatred such as no nation on earth has ever before had to bear, National Socialism is busy turning Europe into an emasculated, spiritually sunken aggregate of exploited slave races, thinly sealed appendage of monopolist Germany, a German Protectorate in the word's most dishonourable sense.*"

" . . . the Nazi's idea of Europe as a whole, the way in which he thinks about it, how he loves it, is expressed in the statement made by an officer of the German General Staff to the Mexican Military attaché in Berlin, in answer to the question, what would the Nazis do to solve the problem of hunger and revolt in Europe. *'The whole of Europe may starve,' said the German, 'as long as our forces are sufficiently provisioned. We are determined to exterminate the whole civilian population rather than capitulate'.* A manly answer, the answer of a good German-European . . . . Hitler-Europe in its entirety is the base distortion and pollution of a great idea that had at long last been groping towards realisation . . . It will be realised, but, by God's will, not in the malignant parody offered by Nazidom. . . . What must be restored, after its degradation by the gorilla Midas, is amongst and before all else the idea of Europe, which was in the best hearts an idea of liberty, of international honour, of sympathy and human collaboration, and will be so again."

GERMAN OIL OUTPUT REDUCED

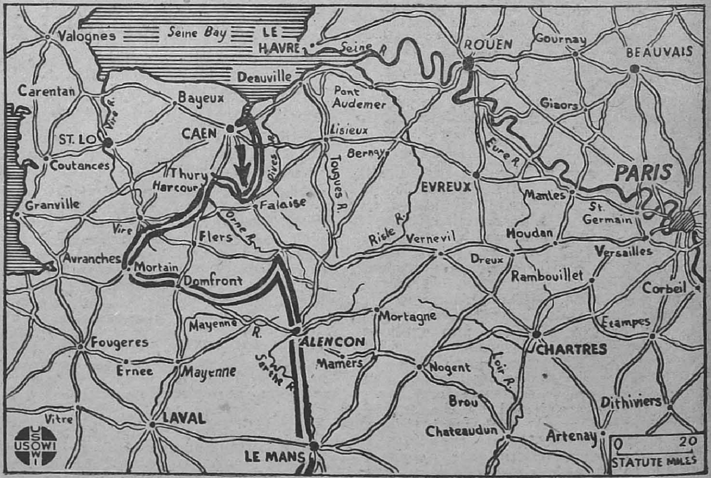
ALL-OUT AIR OFFENSIVE

ALL Allied air forces based in Europe—the Royal Air Force Bomber Command, the United States Eighth and 15th Air Forces and the First Tactical Air Force in Italy and the United States Ninth and Royal Air Force Second Tactical Air Forces now operating partly from Normandy and partly from southern England—are co-operating in an all-out offensive against Germany's fuel supplies, writes *The Times* æronautical correspondent.

Now that severe damage has been caused to the main producing centres, notably Ploesti in Rumania, it is regarded as profitable to bomb more localized supplies such as dumps and storage capacity. In France, for instance, the chaotic state of railway and road communications means that if local supplies can be depleted the enemy may find himself with inadequate quantities. Already there have been several cases of undamaged vehicles being abandoned because they had no oil or petrol. The same thing has happened several times in the Mediterranenan.

It is estimated that the June output of oil from refineries under German control was only 70 per cent of the output before the intensified attacks started, and that synthetic oil production has been cut by half.

FRANCE : EISENHOWER'S PINCER-TRAP



A Fascist despatch rider returned to his base and reported to his CO: "Please, a British soldier stopped me on the road, searched me, took all my papers, then walked away."

"What!" yelled his officer, "You let him search you? You had a revolver, hadn't you?"

"Oh, yes," said the despatch rider with a cunning smile, "but he didn't find that. I hid it in my cap."

The other day an ex-soldier expressed an opinion of what the next war will be like.

"It will be terrible," he said.

"The safest place will be in the army, and the soldiers will spend their spare time knitting comforts for the harassed civilian population."

BACKGROUND ON FLORENCE: ITALY'S EIGHTH CITY

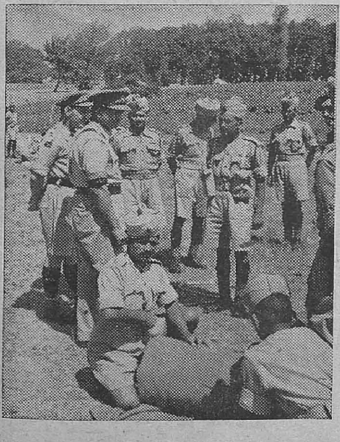
FLORENCE, which has now been occupied by Allied troops, is famed for its treasures of art. The city, where the Eighth Army now is, is the eighth largest Italian city. It ranks with Naples and Venice in beauty. Formerly capital of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, it is now the capital of the Florence province.

Pre-war, over 300,000 lived here on the banks of the Arno river, 41 miles east and inland from the Ligurian Sea. A broad, beautiful valley with rich soil enabled the city's environs to produce an abundance of food. Wheat, maize, olives and many fruits are grown.

Florence is the centre of four main rail lines and of four important roads leading to many of Italy's major cities. From the Middle Ages the City has been the focus of Italy's economic and intellectual life. Florence always was noted for artists and merchants, among the latter Lorenzo de Medici, poet and merchant prince styled the Magnificent.

By means of its banks Florence was Europe's money market. It was world famous for its woollen industry, and also for its silk weaving. At present, its industrial production embraces sweetmeats and straw hats—these from the city that Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and Botticelli made immortal.

People of Florence welcome a unit of the Eighth Army Armoured Force after Allied troops had entered the outskirts of the City.



MAHARAJA OF JAIPUR VISITS TROOPS IN ITALY.—His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur, accompanied by Major-General G. O. Harvey, Military Advisor-in-Chief, Indian State Forces, paid a visit to Indian troops serving in Italy.
The Maharaja talking to men of his own State.

• • •

A young British pilot was being congratulated by a fellow officer as he stepped from his plane. "But after all the pilot said, "I out-numbered the Germans one to five."

AN EXAMPLE FOR US ALL

SEPOY KAMAL RAM, INDIA'S 10th V.C.

Sepoy Kamal Ram of the 8th Punjab Regiment of village Bholupura, Karauli State, is only 20 years old and the Indian Army's youngest V.C. He is also the first sepoy to win an award during this war and the first Indian soldier to win it on the Italian front. His Majesty the King himself presented him with the award at a special investiture during his tour in Italy. Here is gallant Kamal Ram ready for the next Nazi.

After a raid during the first World War, an AEF surgeon told the chaplain that one wounded man was quite beyond hope. The chaplain leaned over him: "My dear fellow, you are very badly wounded. Have you anything to say or any word you want to send to your family?"

"My inside coat pocket," breathed the soldier, painfully.

The chaplain felt a pocket book, and took it out. "Is this what you want?"

"Yes, open it."

"Here is a ten-dollar bill. Is that what you want?"

"Yes," said the soldier, in a whisper.

"Bet you that that I don't die." And he did not.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

9TH AUG.—Allied bombers attacked Stuttgart region to-day and Cologne yesterday.

The number of German U-boats sunk during the war has exceeded 500.

10TH AUG.—Some of the flying bombs falling in Southern England during the last few days carried small incendiary bombs, stated the Ministry of Home Security. Southern England was subjected to flying bomb raids. Flying bomb launching sites in Northern France were attacked by R.A.F. planes.

Mr. Edward Stettinius, Under Secretary of State of United States, said that the question of military occupation of Germany would be dealt with by the European Advisory Committee and not at the forthcoming Four-Power Conference on Post-war Organization. Mr. Cordell Hull said that the army will deal with the matter with the European Advisory Committee.

11TH AUG.—Allied aircraft bombed Berlin and Bremen.

Flying bombs on a large scale attacked Southern England.

12TH AUG.—Germans sent flying bombs in great numbers over Southern England. Flying bomb launching sites in northern France were attacked by R.A.F. bombers.

Allied aircraft attacked Berlin.

13TH AUG.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked Brunswick, Russelstein, Kiel and Frankfurt last night.

There was flying bomb activity over southern counties. Flying bomb launching sites were bombed by Allied aircraft.

14TH AUG.—Flying bombs over Southern England including London area caused some damage and casualties.

Allied bombers attacked Ludwigshafen, Mannheim, Sandhofen, Echterdingen and other places in Germany.

15TH AUG.—Flying bombs came over Southern England including London area.

Royal Air Force bombers attacked Berlin last night. Military objectives in Cologne-Ostheim, Weisbaden-Erbenheim and Frankfurt-Eschborn were also bombed.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

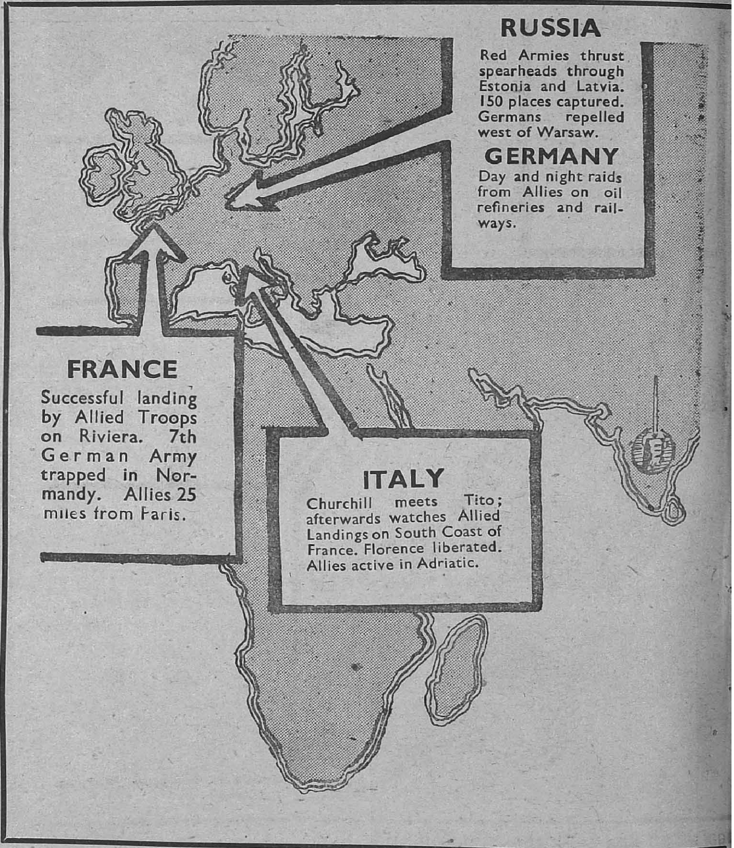
10TH AUG.—The United States War Department ordered a sweeping reduction in the production of Liberator bombers, Commando Transport planes and Thunderbolt fighters to clear the way for the production of the huge new B-29 and B-32 Super bombers.

13TH AUG.—The Four-Power World Security talks will begin in Washington on 21st August. British delegates arrived in Washington yesterday.

14TH AUG.—The United States War Department announced to-day that 677,012 tons of bombs have been dropped by United States air forces in all theatres of operations since Pearl Harbour until July 1, 1944. This works at 30 tons per hour. The Navy Department announced that the destroyer escort *Fiska* has been sunk by a U-boat in the Atlantic. This brings the number of United States warships lost since the beginning of war to 175.

15TH AUG.—The Chairman of the United States War Production Board, Mr. Donald Nelson, has lifted the barr on the manufacture of hundreds of civilian articles, where local surpluses of labour and machinery permit.

THE WORLD WAR



India lies at the heart of this Global war

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

9TH AUG.—The Japanese rearguards were driven from positions on the Tiddim Road fifty miles from Imphal.

10TH AUG.—The Allied troops have captured Sahmaw and Taungni.

It is revealed that Lord Wavell recently toured for three days parts of India liberated from the Japanese. He visited Manipur, Imphal, Kohima, etc.

11TH AUG.—The 14th Army troops were within ten miles from Burma border.

12TH AUG.—The 14th Army men were only seven miles from the Burma frontier. They entered the Tengtam deep in the Chin Hills nearly 60 miles from Imphal.

13TH AUG.—The Allied troops occupied Kazu on Myitkyina-Bhamo road.

14TH AUG.—14th Army troops reached the Burma border.

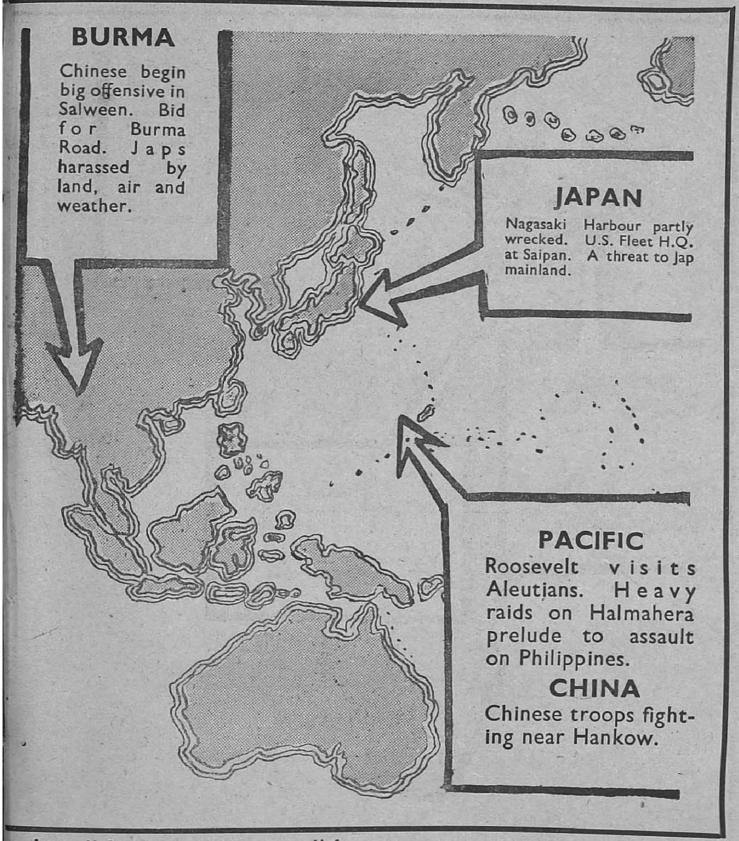
On both the Tiddim Road and Kabaw valley Allied troops made further progress.

15TH AUG.—Jap rearguards fell back on the Tiddim Road. Fighting continued within five miles of the India-Burma frontier.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

9TH AUG.—The drive against Warsaw was resumed. The Red Army's preparations for the invasion of East Prussia

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



against all fascist tyrannies on all fronts.

were complete. Russian troops captured a number of places in their advance in the Baltic States.

The former Foreign Minister of Finland Anti B. Heckzell was appointed Prime Minister in the new Finnish Cabinet.

10TH AUG.—Soviet troops drew nearer to Riga. The Russian forces captured Jakobpils, Raseineal, Podbycz and over 300 localities.

The Polish Prime Minister, M. Stanislav Mikolajczyk, met Stalin yesterday. He made a statement on his talks with Stalin and the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

11TH AUG.—The Red Army troops captured Petseri, Rozhy, Kryshy, Kossovruski and about 500 localities.

12TH AUG.—The Soviet troops captured Lepessari, Auce, Shepetovo and over 600 localities.

13TH AUG.—The Soviet threat to East Prussia has entered a new and dangerous phase. The Russian forces captured Vyrub and Madona and Goniadz and over 300 localities.

14TH AUG.—The Russian forces captured Osowiec, Antoslu and hundreds of other localities.

15TH AUG.—Russians crossed Bialurza river—the last natural obstacle before the East Prussian frontier. Soviet forces captured several towns and localities in various sectors.

ITALY AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

9TH AUG.—The Allied troops occupied Grillo. General Maitland Wilson has moved his Mediterranean Headquarters from Algiers to Italy.

10TH AUG.—The Canadians were active in Florence.

11TH AUG.—Germans withdrew to the northern parts of Florence. Allied forces captured Capezzano, Monterado and Corinaldo.

It is revealed that Mr. Churchill is in Italy

12TH AUG.—Adverse weather restricted operations. Activity on the entire Italian front was confined to patrolling. Allies captured Florence.

Mr. Robert Patterson, the United States Under-Secretary of War and Lieut.-General B. Somervell, Commander of the United States Army Services of Supply joined Mr. Churchill in Italy.

13TH AUG.—In the town of Florence troops of the Eighth Army were still on the south bank of the Arno. Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver Leese, the Eighth Army Commander, has sent a message of thanks to Major-General D. Russel, General Officer Commanding, the Eighth Indian Division.

Mr. Churchill, Marshal Tito and other Allied Chiefs met in Rome.

14TH AUG.—Allied forces captured Fontone. New Zealanders were fighting to clear the banks of Arno between Empoli and Florence.

15TH AUG.—On all fronts patrolling and artillery duels continued.

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

9TH AUG.—The Allied troops captured St. Malo, Le Mans and other places. Americans were within 90 miles of Paris.

General Eisenhower has moved his headquarters from Britain to France. Churchill visited Normandy.

Allied bombers attacked targets in Hungary.

10TH AUG.—American troops entered Nantes. South of Caen, Canadian troops captured Conteville, Foussy La Campagne, Saint Sylvain and Cauvicourt. British troops reached Vimout. Germans recaptured Mortain.

11TH AUG.—British troops reached Esson. Germans recaptured Le Mans. Allied troops were said to be within 50 miles of Paris.

Military targets in Rumania and Yugoslavia were attacked by Allied bombers.

12TH AUG.—Allied troops crossed Loire and reached a point 10 miles south of Nantes. Heavy fighting was in progress in Dinard area.

13TH AUG.—An embattled and broken German army of more than 100,000 men fleeing towards Falaise gap was battered savagely from the air.

Americans captured Sourdeval.

14TH AUG.—The retreat of the beaten German Army through the ever-narrowing Falaise-Argentan gap has become very near a rout. Allied troops entered Clair Tizon and Donnay.

General Eisenhower made a special appeal to his troops to make this week a momentous one.

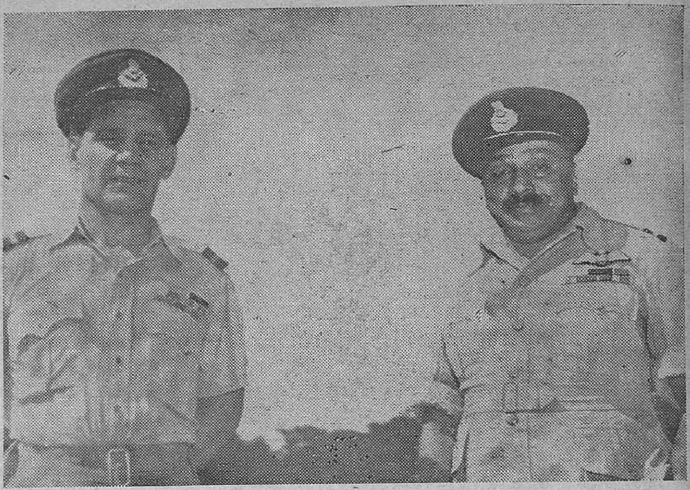
INDIAN PRINCES' AIR FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Air Commodore His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., A.D.C., and Air Commodore His Highness the Nawab Sahib of Bhopal, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.V.O., are appointed Additional Staff Officers to Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, K.C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South-East Asia.

These appointments give formal recognition to the great interest which Their Highnesses have taken in the growth and progress of the Indian Air Force and will strengthen the firm ties existing between the Ruling Princes of India and the youngest of her armed forces.

As part of their duties, Their Highnesses will shortly visit operational squadrons and training units of the Indian Air Force to tell aircrews and ground personnel of the pride which India is taking in their achievements.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur was appointed to the rank of Honorary Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force in February 1939 and the Nawab of Bhopal in February 1943.



Air Commodore His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur (right) *with Air Commodore His Highness the Nawab Sahib of Bhopal who have been appointed Additional Staff Officers to Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South-East Asia.*

Major-General R.N. Gale commanding a British airborne division in Normandy.

Marshal Petain with Joseph Darnard, Secretary-General for Maintenance of Law and Order, Marshal Deat, Minister of Labour and Paul Marion, Minister of Information and Propaganda, have left Vichy.

15TH AUG.—American, British and French troops landed on the south coast of France between Nice and Marseilles. Allied troops took Etancy, reached Saint Denis de Mere. Thury Harcourt and Proussy were taken.

General Eisenhower has taken personal command of all forces in the field in Normandy and Brittany. He made a statement on the war in France.

* * *

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

11TH AUG.—Senor Jose Felix Lequerica, the former Spanish Ambassador in Vichy, was appointed the Spanish Foreign Minister.

* * *

THE FAR EAST

9TH AUG.—General Koiso, the Japanese Premier declared "The possibility of an Allied invasion of Japan must not be ruled out as unlikely."

The Japanese resistance ceased in Guam.

10TH AUG.—Sixteen more Jap ships were sunk in the Japanese waters by United States submarines.

Strong naval concentrations were cruising the vicinity of the Bonin islands. Davao was bombed successfully for three nights.

American Super Fortresses bombed targets on the Japanese home island of Kyushu. Nagasaki was heavily hit. Palambang, on the island of Sumatra was also attacked by Super Fortresses.

The Japs captured Hengyan in Hunan.

It is revealed that President Roosevelt spent three days in Honolulu arriving there on July 29. He conferred with General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz, Halsey and Leany. After the Pacific War Council, President Roosevelt made a statement.

11TH AUG.—Vice-Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner has transferred his Pacific Fleet Headquarters from Pearl Harbour to Saipan.

It is reported that United States bombers attacked Iwo Jima in the Bonins, Mille Atoll in the Marshalls and Nauru Island on Wednesday.

12TH AUG.—President Roosevelt in a broadcast said that "The war against Japan is well in hand."

American bombers attacked Halmahera Island on Friday.

13TH AUG.—Halmahera Island was again attacked. Divao on Mindanao and Kai, Marshalls, Paramushiro also bombed.

Major-General Curtis Lemay has been appointed the Commanding General of the 20th Air Force now operating in the Far East.

14TH AUG.—Admiral Nimitz stated that there is a possibility of defeating Japan without invading Japanese mainland.

Allied aircraft attacked enemy positions in Kai islands. Wewak, New Ireland, and New Britain.

15TH AUG.—Allied air attacks on Halmahera continued. Allied bombers attacked Takao harbour in South-western Formoza.

Chinese forces in the Hunan province recaptured several strategic points north of Leiyang on the Canton-Hankow railway.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE," MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.